

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 171552Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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CONFIDENTIAL VIENNA 6166

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, XG, AU
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SI ENGAGEMENT IN PORTUGAL; POLL UNFAVORABLE
TO PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS ALLEGED

1. AUSTRIAN MP KARL CZERNETZ TOLD EMBOFF JULY 17 THAT
HE HAD LEARNED FROM HIS SOCIALIST PARTY CONTACTS IN
PORTUGAL THAT SECRET PUBLIC OPINION POLL PORTUGUESE
COMMUNISTS CONDUCTED FORTNIGHT AGO HAD REVEALED POPULAR
SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY DOWN TO ONLY
SIX PERCENT OF ELECTORATE, THAT FOR THEIR LEFT ALLIES
DOWN TO EIGHT-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT, AND THAT FOR
SOCIALIST PARTY UP TO OVER FIFTY PERCENT. CZERNETZ
SAID THIS POSSIBLY EXPLAINED EXTREME NERVOUSNESS OF
PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADERS AND THEIR ALLIES IN
ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT ABOUT DEVELOPING POLITICAL
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.

2. EMBOFF HAD CALLED CZERNETZ TO ASK IF SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL (SI) HAD DEVELOPED SPECIFIC PLANS FOR
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"INTENSIFIED ENGAGEMENT" OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTY

LEADER IN DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL ABOUT WHICH CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAD SPOKEN TO PRESS JULY 16. KREISKY HAD SAID TO JOURNALISTS THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH FRG SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT ABOUT WHETHER SI SHOULD GO BEYOND ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWING ITS RECENT BUREAU MEETING AT DUBLIN TO STEP UP ENGAGEMENT OF SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS. CZERNETZ, WHO HAS BEEN FILLING IN FOR SI PRESIDENT PITTERMANN SINCE LATTER SUFFERED STROKE IN MAY, SAID SI BUREAU ACTION HAD PROVIDED MANDATE FOR LEADERS' ACTION BUT PARTY LEADERS THEMSELVES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORM ACTION WOULD TAKE. HE SAID SEVERAL PROPOSALS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT REPLIED, WHEN ASKED FOR SPECIFICS, THAT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WAS SO FLUID IT WAS PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT KREISKY AND BRANDT HAD IN MIND.

3. KREISKY ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WAS NOT YET FINAL, THAT STRUGGLE FOR PORTUGAL'S DEMOCRATIZATION WAS TASK FOR NEXT WEEKS OR MONTHS. DECISIVE QUESTION FOR DEMOCRACY WAS NOT WHETHER PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS WERE IN GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS INTERNAL MATTER NOT SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION, BUT WHETHER EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND CHANCES FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT WERE GUARANTEED. KREISKY ALSO REJECTED ANY POSSIBLITIY OF JOINT POLITICAL ACTION GENERALLY BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS, STATING THAT SUCH COOPERATION WOULD BE BOTH WRONG AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC IDEOLOGY. HE SAID IT WOULD BE EQUALLY WRONG FOR SI TO SO INSTRUCT ITS MEMBER PARTIES. BUCHANAN

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